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OF THE

DIVINITY SCHOOL

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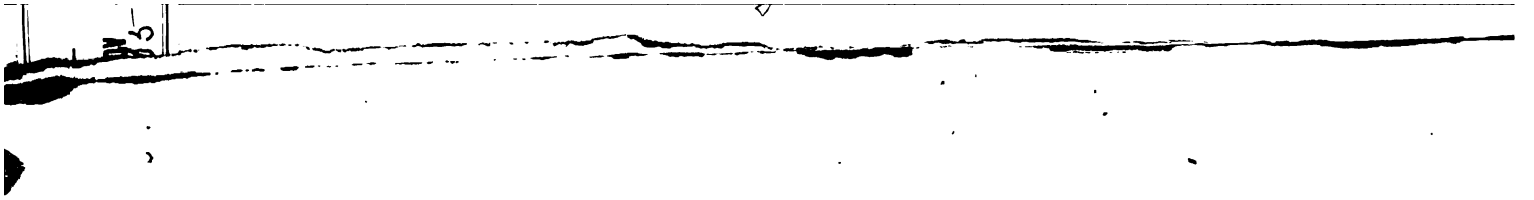


3

THE

UNION

FOR

HOME WORK,

PITTSFIELD, MASS.

—

REPORTS.

THE

UNION FOR HOME WORK,

PITTSFIELD, MASS.

REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR 1892-1893.

Incorporated April 25, 1887.

PITTSFIELD, MASS.
PRESS OF THE SUN PRINTING COMPANY.
1893.

JAN 4 1894
Gratis. (119)

Board of Managers for 1893-'94.

President, REV. CARL G. HORST.
Vice-President, REV. H. S. JOHNSON.
Secretary, MRS. H. A. BREWSTER.
Treasurer, LORENZO H. GAMWELL, JR.

First Congregational Church.

Rev. W. V. W. Davis,
F. A. Robbins, Mrs. J. M. Stevenson,
M. A. Dixon, Miss Anna L. Dawes.

Baptist Church.

Rev. H. S. Johnson,
Kelton B. Miller, Mrs. R. B. Bardwell,
Miss Nellie Whipple, L. H. Gamwell, Jr.

South Cougregational Church.

Rev. I. C. Smart,
W. B. Rice, Miss Mary E. Porter,
Frank Walker, Miss Belle Dunham.

St. Stephen's Church.

Rev. W. W. Newton,
Morris Schaff, Mrs. H. Neill Wilson,
W. T. Petherbridge, Mrs. H. A. Brewster.

Unity Church.

Rev. Carl G. Horst,
Mrs. T. H. Richardson, Joseph E. Colton,
Mrs. J. C. Stillman, C. C. Rowley.

Methodist Church.

Rev. John F. Clymer,
Mrs. F. F. Read, Edward F. Rice,
Mrs. H. S. Russell, William Dimick.

Superintendent, GEORGE H. C. VINEY.

REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

THE UNION FOR HOME WORK, as its name implies, was organized to do *home* work. Its mission is to help the poor of the city of Pittsfield. Its aim is always to give such aid as will not only relieve, but also prevent poverty. It investigates all cases of need, that charity may be dispensed wisely and intelligently.

The old idea of charity was to give indiscriminately to every one that asked. Such indiscriminate giving encouraged not a few to be idle, shiftless, and improvident, and tended to foster pauperism instead of curing it. The new idea of charity is to give as little as possible, to prevent poverty, and to raise every needy person into independence. All true charity must always aim to make a man a self-supporting citizen. To help men to help themselves is the keynote of all true philanthropy. It has been well said, "In the first stage of the world's history the maxim was 'Let men help themselves.' In the second stage of the world's history it was 'Let men help others.' In that epoch of the world's history in which we live, the maxim of all wise and experienced men, who have thought about the subject, is 'Help men to help themselves.'" That is the object of the Union for Home Work. It aims to find out and befriend the unfortunate, to give relief to the worthy poor, to stand between the community and house-to-house beggars, to make imposture upon the

churches impossible, and to prevent pauperism by enabling the poor to help themselves.

Although the work accomplished during the past year falls short of our ideal, yet, considering that we were without the help of a superintendent, a large number of families and individuals were assisted by us. It would be easy enough to give statistics, to enumerate the various cases of need helped by us, to state the amount of coal and food and clothing and furniture given to the poor, but such bald statistics can never report that more important work which aims to instil in the poor provident ideas, and to raise them from poverty to self-support. Moreover let it be remembered that much of our work is necessarily of such a confidential nature, that it cannot be made public without betraying sacred confidence.

To carry on our work more successfully and also more economically, we feel as never before the need of a building of our own, where all the various branches of the Home Work can be centralized. At present we are obliged to rent at a great expense rooms both for the Boys' Club and the Coffee Rooms. It is hoped that this coming year will see steps taken to secure a "Union for Home Work Block."

In conclusion, we extend our thanks to the friends who have given us their generous support, (especially Mr. E. F. Rice for his very liberal supply of food) to the local newspapers for their kind assistance, and to all who in any way co-operated with us in this work of helping the needy and unfortunate in our midst during the past year.

In behalf of the Board of Managers,

CARL G. HORST, *President.*

REPORT OF THE BOYS' CLUB.

For an experiment as to the desirableness of a Boys' Club, two small rooms, modestly supplied with games and papers, were opened on March 19, 1892, when 70 boys were present.

Meetings were held four times a week for two months. The membership of the Club reached 282, with an average attendance of 50. The Club opened again on November 26, 1892, and closed on April 8, 1893. Fifty-four meetings were held with an average attendance of 58. The enrollment was 395. Total attendance 3132.

Originally boys between the ages of nine and sixteen were admitted, but as more applied than could be cared for, when the Club changed its quarters the age of admission was raised to eleven.

After the resignation of Mr. Sprong, Mr. Carl Schurr was engaged to assist in the Club and be present at the rooms each evening.

An entertainment was given on the evening of February 19. The boys stringed orchestra kindly furnished music, Mr. Frank King swung his Indian clubs most skillfully, and Mr. Schurr delighted and mystified his audience by his feats of juggling.

At the opening of the rooms in November there was on hand $27.97. Received from Mr. W. F. Hawkins, treasurer, $87.00; from other sources, $8.70. Total, $123.67. $118.03 has been spent, leaving a balance of $5.64 in the Club treasury. In the Home Work treasury there is a balance to the credit of the Club of $18.67.

The attendance has been most encouraging, and in the main the boys have had a proper appreciation of the privileges of the rooms.

The Club has been under the management of Miss Russell and Miss Pingree, assisted by Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Stowell, Mrs. Prescott, Mrs. Hawkins, Miss Mercer, Miss Porter, Miss Harding, Miss Wentworth, Miss Whiting, Miss Nellie Whipple, Miss Marion Russell, the Misses Paddock, the Misses Talcott, and Miss Bedel.

REPORT OF THE COFFEE ROOMS.

The Pittsfield Coffee rooms were open for the third season from about January 1 to May 1, 1893. The rooms occupied were on the second floor of Geer's block, on North street, which were large and well adapted to the purpose.

The average daily attendance of 75 to 80 persons was about the same as during the two previous seasons, and the class of people who made use of the rooms about the same. If there were any change in the latter particular, it was for the better; that is to say, the rooms were visited by a larger number of persons of the class they are especially intended to aid than formerly. There were fewer of the loafing class, and a greater proportion of men who work when work is to be had. The tone of behavior in the rooms, which has always been kept good, was if anything better than in previous years, and better care was taken of the books and furniture, showing an appreciation, on the part of the habitues of the rooms, of the advantages and comforts provided for them. On the whole the season of 1893 showed a gain in the usefulness of the rooms.

The good accomplished by such an institution it is hard to demonstrate, except perhaps in a few individual cases. The educational effect is one that cannot be fully shown. What good may be evolved from the

impressions made on those who used the rooms as a place of resort is only a matter of speculation, but it seems that the comfort, cleanliness, moral as well as material, and welcome of the rooms, must have appealed strongly to the better nature of the men who had the opportunity of contrasting them with the unreal enjoyment, dirt and low-toned environment and greed offered them by the saloons.

While the Coffee rooms have undoubtedly been productive of a great deal of good, it cannot be doubted that much more might be accomplished in comparison with the expenditure, if they could be maintained upon a broader scale.

If sufficient capital could be procured to establish a restaurant for business men on the first floor, with the recreation rooms either at the back or above it, it is believed that the institution could be made self-supporting.

Respectfully, L. K. ALBRO.

EMPLOYMENT BRANCH.

During the past year very little has been done by the Employment Branch. Mrs. Smythe, who has had charge of the Home Work rooms, afternoons, for the past two or three years, has cut the work, given it out to be made, and has in many cases put on bands and made button holes, so that the garments should be finished properly.

The sewing has been done almost entirely by four women. More than that number have applied for work, some of whom could sew well, and some of whom could not; but they had to be refused because the supply of

ready-made garments is always in excess of the demand for them.

About twenty dollars' worth of garments have been sold, and there are still at the Home Work rooms thirty garments remaining to be sold. The great obstacle in the way of the success of the Employment Branch is the want of a market for the articles after they are made.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE FRESH AIR FUND FOR 1892.

Two hundred and thirty-six children have been given an outing. They have been on farms in Windsor, East Windsor, New Ashford and Pittsfield, each child staying about ten days. They are New York children, sent out by the Tribune Fresh Air Fund, which brings them to Pittsfield without one penny's expense to Berkshire contributors. The money raised in Berkshire pays the board of the children and incidental expenses at this end. These children have come to us in seven parties, the first one arriving July 1st, the last returning September tenth. On arriving they are met by members of the committee and assigned their places. The party returning to New York the same day has been obliged to spend three hours at the station, and therefore the committee has had a chance to talk with the children. The wish to return another year has seemed to be a general one, and they have gone away partially comforted by the hope of returning. It would be a pity to disappoint them, to say nothing of hundreds of others who need to come, and for whom the Tribune Fresh Air Fund is ready to do its part. The money contributed by Pittsfield and Dalton for this year's work is about one-half the amount the committee could have

spent, because so many people want to take children. The outlook for next season is encouraging so far as homes for the children are concerned, and it is sincerely hoped that a greater number of people will be interested in this charity and help increase the Fund.

CAROLINE G. PARKER, *Sec'y.*

FRESH AIR FUND—1892.

CAROLINE G. PARKER, *Treas.*

Rec'd from Catherine Pingree, balance in Pittsfield National Bank,		$129 40
" from First Church,	Church,	135 75
	Sunday School,	10 00
	Mr. Ballard's Class,	11 00
" from Peck and Russell's Sunday School,		5 00
" " St. Stephen's Church,		53 00
" " Methodist Church,		42 38
" " South Church,		36 95
" " Baptist Church,		16 25
" " Unity Church,		6 25
" " St. Joseph's Church,		5 00
" " Chinese Sunday School,		6 00
" " Dalton Cong. Church and Sunday School,		211 01
" " Thespians,		194 88
" " Friend—for lunches, etc.,		10 00
" " Friend,		3 00
		$875 87

Paid for care of children :	
To Mrs. G. W. Converse, Windsor,	$526 50
Mrs. H. W. Ford, Windsor,	15 00
Mrs. E. M. Robinson, Pittsfield,	50 00
Mrs. Rocelia Colburn, Pittsfield,	6 00
Mrs. E. P. Beach, New Ashford,	120 00
William Harwood, East Windsor,	60 00
John L. Russell, (livery)	11 00
For lunches and electric car rides,	10 74
	$799 24
Balance,	76 63
	$875 87

Balance,	$76 63	
Received later from friend,	10 00	
		$86 63 dep. in Berk. Co. Sav. Bank.

REPORT OF THE FRUIT AND FLOWER MISSION.

During the past year 21 meetings have been held, 19 for the regular distribution of fruit and flowers. At these there have been visits paid as follows:

To the inmates of the Berkshire County Home,	156
To other proteges of the Mission,	84
	240

Besides these the Hospital has been visited 7, and the Town Farm 11, times, each of which visits included a varying number of personal calls on the inmates, averaging at the Town Farm about 25 each time, so that the total number of visits for the year now ended is not far from 525. The total number of bouquets made were 745, an average of 39 each week.

The membership of the mission is as follows:

St. Stephen's Church,	9	Methodist Church,	2
First Church,	21	St. Joseph's Church,	1
South Church,	3		
Baptist Church,	3	A total of	39

Thirteen different persons outside of our Institution have been visited with more or less regularity.

Five services were held on Sunday afternoons during the summer at the Town Farm. These were conducted by the different ministers and laymen, assisted by a volunteer choir composed of members of the Mission and their friends. These services were quite well attended, and seemed to be appreciated by those for whom they were held.

Flowers were three times provided for the funerals of children where there would otherwise have been none. They were very gratefully received, and it is hoped that the work may be continued during the coming year.

At Christmas each one of those on our list was remembered by some friend among the members of the Mission. The work at each of the institutions was in charge of a committee, and through their efforts all the inmates received some small Christmas gift.

On account of the flower-sale at the rooms, in which so many of our young ladies were actively interested, the work at Easter was limited to Easter cards, which were mailed to our "shut in" friends.

While we are conscious in looking over the work of the year that there have been opportunities unimproved and sometimes a lack of faithfulness among our members, yet we are sure there has been much conscientious work done and that the burdens of ill health, loneliness and old age have been lightened if but a little by our efforts.

Our mission is a very quiet, simple one—only a "cup of cold water," but those of us who have known of the work from the beginning, are strong in the belief that it is doing a Christ-like work among us.

And so again we ask of our members a renewed devotion to the work, and of our friends outside that they will continue their kindly gifts of flowers and fruit and that they will further help us by letting us know of those who might be cheered by our calls and the flowers.

JEANNIE AUSTIN RUSSELL, *Sec.*

KITCHEN GARDEN—1892–1893.

Saturday, November 26th, 1892, a Kitchen Garden class, including twenty-one members, was organized at the Home Work rooms. A session from ten o'clock, a. m. to half-past eleven, a. m., was held each succeeding Saturday, save two, till the close of the year's work,

April 1st, 1893, when an exhibition was held at the Home Work rooms.

The average class attendance was twelve each week. The class was conducted and taught by Miss Florence Trimble and Miss S. Elizabeth Barker, who were assisted in their work by the following pianists: Miss Minnie Wolfe, Miss Kate West, Miss Winnifred Baldwin, and Miss Clara Whiting.

The lessons in "stick laying," bed making, sweeping, dusting, washing and ironing, were taught.

POOR LUNCH SOCIETY—1892-'93.

The Poor Lunch Society was organized in 1867, and is therefore many years older than the Union for Home Work, yet it may properly be considdred an auxiliary of the Union for Home Work, as many cases of need which the Poor Lunch Society has relieved have been brought to the knowledge of the Society by the Superintendent of the Union for Home Work, and the two organizations have worked together in seeking out destitute cases, especially during the last five years.

The object of this Society is to furnish warm, comfortable clothing for those who, because of illness or other misfortune, are unable to provide for themselves and their families, and the record of work dnne is one in which the city of Pittsfield may justly take pride. The plan of work during the last winter was somewhat different from that of former years, in that all the meetings were held at the Home Work rooms instead of at the houses of members, as had been the custom previously, and no lunch was served, the hours of work being from ten to one o'clock. Twenty meetings were held during the winter season with an average attend-

ance of ten, a smaller number than in some former years. Still the amount of work done was considerable, 188 garments being made and distributed among fifteen families, besides a large number of partly worn garments and some new material, which were furnished. Some of the manufacturers of the city generously gave large quantities of cloth, flannel, and several pairs of shoes, thus aiding materially the work of the Society.

We feel that if the good accomplished by this organization were better known, its value would be recognized, and many would be ready to help in this effort to aid those among us whose needs are met in no other way. HARRIET O. SLOCUM.

THE SEWING SCHOOL.

To the Board of Managers of the Union for Home Work:

The Sewing School began its work, for the past season, on October 29th, 1892, and held its closing annual festival on April 8th, 1893.

The last meeting for work was held on March 25th, but on account of the flower sale, on Easter even, the festival of the Sewing School had to be postponed for one week.

The whole number enrolled during the winter was 125, but after two or three Saturdays, about fifteen ceased coming, and after the tenth week, ten or fifteen more left the school, either to go to work, or because of illness in their families, but at the close of the term there were still 94 belonging to the school, and the average attendance was 75, a much better average than for many previous winters.

The experiment was tried last winter of giving the children an opportunity to furnish a part of the money necessary for the support of the school. At the Sewing School festival, in the spring of 1892, the children were told that every girl, who would like to, might give ten cents the next winter, to help pay expenses. This was done in the belief that people value what they pay for, and in the hope that if a small fee were paid, the children would be sent to school more regularly. The children remembered, and contributed $7.75 of the $12.87 which it cost to support the school. Is it not a significant fact that $7.75 so closely corresponds to the average attendance 75 ?

The Sewing School has been in charge of the committee appointed by you for that purpose, and they have been assisted by sixteen other ladies, whose help they gratefully acknowledge. More teachers were needed, and your committee hope that when the last Saturday of next October comes, not only those who have so faithfuily served in the past, but many mere, will offer to take classes in the Sewing School. Only these qualifications are essential : *To know how to sew well, and to be willing to teach on every Saturday afternoon, making no other engagements, for the time when the Sewing School is in session, and to provide a substitute when unavoidably kept away.*

The number of articles made in the Sewing School during the last term was 143, and besides these some of the older girls made at their homes several holders, to be sold at the Easter Even sale.

The work was on exhibition, on the day of the sale, that all who desired could see what had been done in the Sewing School.

The names of the girls, who, without an absence, attended the School last winter, have been placed on this

roll of honor: Antoinette Baumuller, Margaret Fleming, Mary Foy, Lucy Baumuller, Lizzie Fleming, Lizzie Grunow, Selma Hornig.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE T. S. BREWSTER,

For the Committee.

RECEIPTS.

Received from W. F. Hawkins, treasurer,	$10 00	
" from the children,	7 75	
Bill for supplies, paid for by W. F. Hawkins, treas.	3 12	
		$20 87

PAYMENTS.

Oct. 29.	Cotton cloth,	$3 12	
Nov. 5.	8 papers needles,	40	
Nov. 12.	30 yards calico,	1 80	
Nov. 12.	Box of elastic bands,	20	
Feb. 4.	9 yards cotton cloth,	70	
Feb. 24.	26 yards cotton cloth,	1 40	
Mar. 4.	1 paper needles,	5	
Apr. 1.	Doll,	50	
Apr. 11.	Two baskets,	50	
Apr. 1.	3 spools thread,	15	
Apr. 8.	Oranges,	2 05	
	Paid laundry bill for Kitchen Garden,	40	
	Paid for mending chairs,	2 00	
	Returned to W. F. Hawkins, treasurer,	7 60	
			$20 87

BOARD OF MANAGERS, UNION FOR HOME WORK.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Walter F. Hawkins, Treasurer Board of Managers, in account with the Union for Home Work, for the year ending June 1, 1893.

(1.) GENERAL FUND.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand June 1, 1892,	$0 42
District collections,	54 86
Income from funds received from treasurer of corporation,	188 64
Appropriation from funds of corporation,	500 00
Sales department,	4 00
Proceeds Unity Church benefit,	42 45
Proceeds concert, for February 22,	7 75

Proceeds reception and flower sale,		103 52
First Congregational Church,		123 00
South Congregational Church,		19 17
First Baptist Church,		21 51
St. Stephen's Church,		16 82
Unity Church,		3 00
Young People's Society, South Congregational Church,		3 00
First Church Sunday School,		31 48
Individual contributors :		
W. R. Plunkett,	$20 00	
Wm. Tolman,	2 00	
D. C. Morey,	3 00	
Devanny & Foot,	5 00	
Miss Maria Warriner,	10 00	
John C. Crosby,	5 00	
Geo. Shipton,	5 00	
Forester Clark,	1 00	
F. I. Drake,	5 00	
H. S. Russell,	10 00	
Miss Sarah P. Benjamin,	10 00	
J. R. Newman & Sons,	10 00	
Mrs. Hunt,	2 00	
Mrs. H. A. Brewster,	3 00	
H. A. Brewster,	5 00	
Rev. and Mrs. Strong,	3 00	
D. M. Collins,	10 00	
H. H. Richardson,	10 00	
Cash,	5 00	
W. H. Kendall,	1 00	
James Wilson,	10 00	
Mrs. Samuel Bridges,	25	
J. M. Burns,	2 00	
Miss Dora Dunbar,	1 00	
H. B. Nash,	1 00	
F. T. West,	15 00	
Mrs. W. L. Paddock,	10 00	
C. M. McArthur,	5 60	
Mrs. E. H. Kellogg,	5 00	
Mrs. H. L. Dawes,	5 00	
Harrington Bros.,	5 00	
Miss Anna L. Dawes,	5 00	
Cash,	2 00	
Mrs. John Buckingnam,	25 00	
Mrs. Joslyn,	5 00	
Mrs. W. R. Allen,	10 00	
R. B. Canfield,	10 00	
Geo. E. Sprong,	25 00	
Mrs. Morewood,	2 00	
Cash,	50	
Henry W. Taft,	25 00	
		293 75
		$1,413 37

EXPENDITURES.

Geo. E. Sprong, salary to Dec. 24, 1892,	$695 57	
Mrs. I. M. Smythe, salary to May 20, 1893,	153 00	
Relief,	166 35	
Superintendent, postage and incidentals,	38 63	
Printing,	43 75	
Livery bills,	17 50	
Trucking,	5 52	
Supplies,	24 09	
Balance on hand June 1, 1893,	268 96	
		$1,413 37

(2.) BOYS' CLUB.

RECEIPTS.

Thanksgiving collection,	$16 17	
Peck and Russell Sunday School,	5 00	
First Congregational Church,	2 00	
First Church Sunday School,	10 00	
South Congregational Church,	2 00	
First Baptist Church,	1 50	
"Little Helpers' Circle of King's Daughters,"	5 00	
Miss Annie L. Allen,	25 00	
Mrs. F. T. West,	15 00	
"Friend,"	5 00	
"Friend,"	10 00	
Mrs. C. B. Redfield,	3 00	
Miss Isabella T. Redfield,	5 00	
Mrs. H. W. Chapin,	1 00	
Miss Electa Colt,	3 00	
		$108 67

EXPENDITURES.

Miss Jeannie A. Russell, Manager,	$87 00	
Wm. E. Chapman, work at rooms,	3 00	
Balance on hand June 1, 1893,	18 67	
		$108 67

(3.) COFFEE ROOMS.

RECEIPTS.

First Baptist Church,	$5 00	
Young People's Society, Baptist Church,	10 00	
First Congregational Church,	2 00	
Individual contributions,	317 54	
		$334 54

EXPENDITURES.

E. C. Ackley, superintendence,	$74 00
F. A. Woodruff, wood and coal,	32 15
Wood Bros., organ box,	1 00
Bicknell & Co., supplies,	4 50
Geo. W. Bailey, supplies,	2 92
Talbot Bros., supplies,	2 30

Sun Printing Co., cards, &c.,	4 25	
G. A. Bidwell, furnishings,	15 00	
C. E. Merrill, furnishings,	4 28	
Sundry bills paid,	48 00	
Republican Club, rent four months.	140 00	
Balance on hand June 1, 1893,	6 14	
		$334 54

RECAPITULATION.

(1.) General Fund :		
Receipts,		$1,413 37
Expenditures,		1,144 41
Balance on hand,		$268 96
(2.) Boys' Club :		
Receipts,		$108 67
Expenditures,		90 00
Balance on hand,		$18 67
(3.) Coffee Rooms :		
Receipts,		$334 54
Expenditures,		328 40
Balance on hand,		$6 14

WALTER F. HAWKINS,
Treasurer Board of Managers.

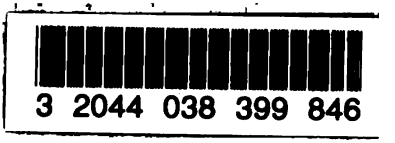
Pittsfield, June 1, 1893.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath unto the Union for Home Work, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, the sum of

.....*Dollars,*

[*or specified securities or property.*]


3 2044 038 399 846